

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 113295
ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 SS-15 EUR-12 INR-10 SP-02
PM-05 EB-08 PA-01 /072 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:AATHIBAULT,JR.:JES
APPROVED BY NEA/INS:JRGRAHAME, ACTING
OES/NET:RDEMING
T:DWELCH
EUR/WE:JDOBBINS

-----014401 040400Z /11

R 040036Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL MADRAS
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 113295

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, TECH, IN

SUBJECT: FRENCH ASSISTANCE TO KALPAKKAN NUCLEAR FACILITY

REF: (A) STATE 66850 (NOTAL); (B) BOMBAY 691 (NOTAL)

1. OUR ATTENTION HAS BEEN DRAWN TO A CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
MONITOR STORY OF APRIL 27 REVIEWING INDO-U.S. NUCLEAR RE-
LATIONS IN A GENERAL SENSE. IN DISCUSSING FUTURE STATUS
OF THE TARAPUR REPROCESSING FACILITY, REPORTER MOHAN RAM
ADDS:" A NEW PLANT IS COMING UP AT KALPAKKAM, WITH FRENCH
ASSISTANCE, DESPITE HEAVY UNITED STATES PRESSURE AGAINST
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IT". RAM'S STATEMENT RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT THE APPLICA-
TION OF SECTIONS 669 AND 670 OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT
WHICH DEAL WITH COUNTRIES EITHER DELIVERING OR RECEIVING
NUCLEAR REPROCESSING EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS OR TECHNOLOGY.
REF (B) ADDRESSED ISSUE OF NUCLEAR ENRICHMENT ASSISTANCE
BUT NOT OF ASSISTANCE IN THE REPROCESSING FIELD.

2. OUR INFORMATION ABOUT FRENCH ASSISTANCE TO THE INDIAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM IS SKETCHY AT BEST AND NOT RECENT. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT IT IS RATHER LIMITED. A REVIEW WE PREPARED LAST DECEMBER IN CONNECTION WITH BRIEFING MATERIAL FOR THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO INDIA INDICATED THAT FRENCH

AID TO KALPAKKAM WAS LIMITED TO DEVELOPMENT OF A FAST BREEDER TEST REACTOR AND NOT REPEAT NOT TO THE REPROCESSING FACILITY AT KALPAKKAM. NO DATE WAS INDICATED WHEN THE FBTR WAS DUE TO COME ON STREAM AND WE ARE NOT CERTAIN WHETHER FRENCH AID CONTINUES.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE EACH ADDRESSEE REVIEWING INFORMATION AVAILABLE AND MAKING DISCREET INQUIRIES IF NECESSARY

AND DEEMED APPROPRIATE ON THIS POINT. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO SUBMIT A WRITTEN STATEMENT ABOUT SUCH FRENCH AID. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE113295
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AATHIBAULT,JR.:JES
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780189-0913
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780593/aaaadbbm.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 33dd98a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 78 STATE 66850, 78 BOMBAY 691
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2791785
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH ASSISTANCE TO KALPAKKAN NUCLEAR FACILITY
TAGS: MNUC, TECH, IN
To: NEW DELHI BOMBAY MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/33dd98a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014